



NGC News

UPDATED New NGC Label for 2012 American Silver Eagle San Francisco Proof Set

Coins from the 2012 American Eagle San Francisco Two-Coin Silver Proof set will receive a special NGC label and pedigree. Special submission instructions apply. Please see the submission instructions below.

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CCG Extends Submission Center Agreement With Guangzhou GB

Certified Collectibles Group (CCG) has extended its submission center agreement with Guangzhou GB in China.

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NGC's Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide Now Includes Lunar and Unicorn Coins

NGC's comprehensive free online resource now includes Lunar and Unicorn coins.

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NGC Grading Coins On-site at Whitman Baltimore Expo

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NGC Ancients: Hadrian's Travels

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USA Coin Album: The San Francisco Mint Coinage of 1923, Part One

Certain issues of United States coins seem to hold more appeal than similar coins of other dates and mints.

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NumisMedia Market Report: The Carson City Mint

One of the more fascinating areas of collecting in this current market is specific to the Carson City Mint. Within any denomination there are a very limited number of dates available, and further, the original mintages are typically very low.

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From the NGC Archives: 1894 Coronet Quarter Eagle

Christian Gobrecht, who became the US Mint's chief engraver in 1840, created this coin that very same year.

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Conservation Showcase: 1879-S S\$1

A recent example from the NCS conservation laboratory.

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2012 Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Silver Dollar Set

The US Mint offers the 2012 Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Silver Dollar Set for sale starting June 1, 2012.

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SS Gairsoppa and SS Mantola Silver Cargo Recovery Expedition Underway

Operations begin to recover the anticipated silver cargoes from the SS Gairsoppa and SS Mantola shipwrecks.

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UPDATED New NGC Label for 2012 American Silver Eagle San Francisco Proof Set

Posted on 6/6/2012

*Coins from the 2012 American Eagle San Francisco Two-Coin Silver Proof set will receive a special NGC label and pedigree. **Special submission instructions apply. Please see the submission instructions below.***

The US Mint is releasing a highly anticipated special 2-coin Proof set of one ounce American Silver Eagle Coins. The set includes the 2012-S American Silver Eagle Reverse Proof Coin, the first reverse proof struck at San Francisco, and the 2012-S American Silver Eagle Proof coin, the first proof American Silver Eagle struck at the San Francisco Mint since 1992. The set is on sale from the [US Mint](#) for only four weeks, from June 7 to July 5, 2012

To honor this special release, NGC is offering a unique San Francisco label. Coins from these sets will be pedigreed as SAN FRANCISCO EAGLE SET. Special instructions must be followed in order for coins to qualify for this pedigree and label.



Submission Instructions:

- Remove the coins from the US Mint packaging and submit them raw in the capsules. Do not send the Mint packaging.
- **IMPORTANT UPDATE:** To receive the SAN FRANCISCO EAGLE SET pedigree, the Proof and Reverse Proof 2012-S Silver Eagles must be received in equal numbers on the same submission form. If the Proof 2012-S Silver Eagles are submitted without an equal or higher number of Reverse Proof 2012-S Silver Eagles, they will NOT be eligible for the special pedigree. All Reverse Proof 2012-S Silver Eagles will receive the pedigree by default.
- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Label/Releases**. Check the NGC website for Early Releases and First Releases cutoff dates. Special Label/Releases must be selected even if Early Releases or First Releases is not desired or if coins are received after the cutoff date for those designations.
- The San Francisco "S" label (shown below) is the default label for the San Francisco Eagle Set.



- All sets that arrive at NGC during the Early Releases period will automatically be labeled as "Early Releases". If you prefer the "First Releases" designation, write "First Releases" on the submission form. To opt out of the Early or First Releases designations, write "No Early/First Releases" on the submission form.
- Coins for this designation or special label must be on their own submission invoice. The coins cannot be mixed with other coins to qualify for this pedigree.
- If you want Mint capsules returned, select "Return packaging" in the Services box on the submission form.

Note: If you prefer the NGC Early Releases (Blue) or Standard (Brown) label, write "Early Releases label" or "Standard Brown label" on the submission form.

Due to the special handling required, NGC will not accept submissions of these sets at trade shows.

Dealers should contact NGC for bulk submission instructions and guidelines.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@ngccoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their sets directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. Join as a Premium member, or upgrade to Premium membership, and you'll receive a coupon to have five coins graded for free, which you can use to submit your San Francisco Eagle Set. [Join today.](#)

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United States

CCG Extends Submission Center Agreement With Guangzhou GB

Posted on 6/13/2012

Certified Collectibles Group (CCG) has extended its submission center agreement with Guangzhou GB in China.

The Certified Collectibles Group (CCG) has extended its submission center agreement with Guangzhou National Standard Numismatic Collection Grading Co. Ltd (Guangzhou GB) in China for an additional three years. A signing ceremony was held on June 7, 2012 at the Guangzhou Center Crowne Plaza in Guangdong.

As a full service submission center, Guangzhou GB assists collectors and dealers to prepare submissions and to ship and insure coins to the Certified Collectibles Group companies, NGC, NCS and PMG, for certification. Guangzhou opened in June 2009 and has offices in Hong Kong, Beijing, Jilin, Henan, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Lanzhou.

“The market for certified coins and currency in China has increased substantially over the past several years and it continues to be a major part of our growth internationally. Guangzhou GB has done an incredible job developing this market and we are excited to continue our partnership with them,” comments Steve Eichenbaum, CEO of Certified Collectibles Group.



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United States



NGC's Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide Now Includes Lunar and Unicorn Coins

Posted on 6/12/2012

NGC's comprehensive free online resource now includes Lunar and Unicorn coins.

The [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#), accessible on NGC's website, has been updated to include Chinese Lunar and Unicorn coins.

This comprehensive free resource includes:

- Panda – silver, gold, platinum, palladium and bi-metallic coins and medals.
- Lunar – silver, gold and platinum coins.
- Unicorn – silver, gold and platinum coins.



SILVER PANDA COIN PRICES								
Select a different category Silver Panda								
The NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide is your single comprehensive resource for Silver Panda coin values and more. Click on a description and the coin details page will open, complete with a Silver Panda Price Guide chart, NGC Census data, Variety attributions, NGC Registry scores and more. It's everything you need to know about Silver Panda coin prices and how they relate to the market - on one page.								
Values in each grade are for NGC-certified coins. "Raw" indicates a coin that has not been certified.								
Page 1 of 4 (524 items) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7								
Coin Images	Description	Raw	MS64	MS65	MS66	MS67	MS68	MS69
	1982 SILVER PANDA 10 YUAN PF 69	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,400	\$1,400
	1984 SILVER PANDA 10 YUAN PF 69	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

The Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide screen
click image to enlarge

Values for nearly 900 issues are available, as well as photographs of many coins. The prices shown are for NGC-certified coins and will be updated regularly.

When viewing the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#), visitors simply click on a listing to see images and specifications, NGC Price Guide values, NGC Census data, VarietyPlus® attributions and NGC Registry scores. It's everything you need to know to buy and sell Chinese Modern coins with confidence!

The Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide complements the widely praised [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#) and [World Coin Price Guide](#). Other resources on NGC's website include [NGC Auction Central](#) and [NGC Coin Explorer](#) supplying everything the numismatic community needs in one place and solidifying the NGC website as the

number one resource for research tools.

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NGC Grading Coins On-site at Whitman Baltimore Expo

Posted on 6/5/2012

NGC will offer on-site grading, including our Silver Dollar Tier, for Morgan and Peace Dollars. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at [Whitman Baltimore Expo](#), in Baltimore, MD on **Thursday, June 28 to Friday, June 29, 2012**. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

Silver Dollar Tier	\$30 per coin
Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).	
<i>Coins must be in flips.</i>	

Gold Special	\$50 per coin
Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).	

Value WalkThrough	\$65 per coin
Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.	

WalkThrough**\$100 per coin**

Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.

Expedite WalkThrough**\$150 per coin**

Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under.

*Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.***High-Value WalkThrough****\$200 per coin**

Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.

Unlimited Value WalkThrough**\$500 per coin**

Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.

Show ReHolder**\$15 per coin**

A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.

NCS CrossOver**\$10 per coin**A coin in an NCS holder is [NGC Details Graded](#).

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note: Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for on-site grading or regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series, 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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NGC Ancients: Hadrian's Travels

Posted on 6/12/2012

This month, NGC Ancients traces the wide-ranging journeys of the emperor Hadrian (AD 117-138), as depicted on his coinage.

Hadrian, who succeeded his adoptive father Trajan to the throne upon the latter's death in AD 117, had the luxury of ruling in the middle of what is now considered to be a golden age, when five so-called "good emperors" reigned. Hadrian was the most Hellenistic (i.e. a devotee of Greek culture) of all Roman Emperors, and this heavily influenced how he spent his regnal years.

The relative lack of military action during Hadrian's reign left him free to pursue other goals, notably the construction of many public works and extensive political tours throughout his Empire. Indeed, Hadrian spent far more time traveling the provinces than he did in Rome during the two decades of his rule.

To commemorate his travels and spread valuable political propaganda, Hadrian issued coins with various reverse types related to these journeys. His first trip, which took him out of Rome from 121 to 125, included such destinations at Britannia (modern Great Britain), Hispania (modern Spain), and parts of North Africa. He also visited Athens, a place he would naturally wish to visit as a follower of Hellenistic culture, and a city to which he would return on future trips. The metropolis held a fascination for him, and he had been elected a citizen in 112, long before he became emperor.

This rare bronze sestertius, issued by Hadrian in c.134-8, commemorates his journey to Britain. It depicts on the obverse a portrait of the emperor, and on the reverse the newly-created goddess Britannia, seated with one foot upon a pile of rocks and holding a spear. In 122, during



his stay in Britain, the emperor initiated the construction of the famous “Hadrian’s Wall,” which was intended to mark the boundary between Roman lands and the barbarian territories to the north.

Hadrian also issued coin types that commemorated his journeys to Hispania, Gallia, and Africa during this same time period. This silver denarius, issued c.134/5-8, depicts on the reverse the reclining form of the goddess Hispania, holding a laurel branch.



Likewise, this denarius, struck about the same time, features on the obverse a fine portrait of the emperor, and on the reverse a symbolic scene of Hadrian, holding a scroll and “raising” the personification of Gaul, along with the inscription “RESTITVTORI GALLIAE.”

Interestingly, this same type of symbolism was used on a copper As of Hadrian, struck during the same era but depicting Hadrian with the goddess Africa.



Hadrian undertook another grand tour of his empire from 128 to 132. He again visited Athens, and subsequently went to the province of Judaea in 130, where his actions eventually sparked the Bar Kochba Revolt, in 132 (after Hadrian’s departure from the province). While in Jerusalem, Hadrian erected a Roman shrine on the site of the Temple razed during the Jewish Revolt (66-73) and renamed the city Aelia Capitolina in honor of his family, both considered key events in the process that eventually resulted in Simon Bar Kochba’s revolt.



This coin, another bronze sestertius issued under Hadrian, references his time spent within that province. The reverse, inscribed ADVENTVI AVG IVDAEAE, portrays the emperor facing the figure of Judaea, who is sacrificing while children stand before and behind.

After leaving Judaea, Hadrian went to Egypt, and there had a fateful cruise on the Nile. It was here, in 130, that Hadrian’s companion Antinous drowned in the river.

This extremely rare medallion features on the obverse an image of the deified youth. It was struck at Corinth, Greece, shortly after his death, and its reverse depicts Bellerophon, restraining a rearing Pegasus. Hadrian also established a cult centered around Antinous, which became quite popular throughout the Mediterranean world.



Despite the personal tragedy he suffered with his companion's death, Hadrian issued coins to mark his stay in Egypt. Illustrated here is a silver denarius, struck between 134 and 138, that depicts the reclining personification of Egypt with an ibis, a bird native to the land, at her feet.



Hadrian's last trip lasted from 134 until 136, when he returned to Rome. It consisted of a tour throughout Syria, a return to Judaea (to deal with the aftermath of the Bar Kochba Revolt), and a final tour through Egypt. He returned via Syria to Rome, where he died two years later, in 138.

Hadrian was remarkable even amongst the so-called “good emperors” of his era; he is remembered even today for his famously wide-ranging journeys, the advantageous by-product of an uncommonly peaceful time in Roman history. Coins that commemorate his journeys are prized by collectors of ancient coins, as they are physical pins on an imaginary map of Hadrian’s Empire, now almost two thousand years gone.

Images courtesy of CNG.

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Counterfeit Detection: 1972 Doubled Die Cent

Posted on 6/15/2012

NGC recently received a fake 1972 Doubled Die Cent, which is not something that we see often.

There are a handful of varieties that are regularly seen faked, including the Philadelphia and Denver 1942/41 Mercury Dimes, the 1955 Doubled Die Cent, and the 1937-D Three-Legged Buffalo Nickel, though the latter is typically an alteration rather than an outright counterfeit. Counterfeits of other varieties are not particularly common, however, and can sometimes catch you off guard.



1972 Doubled Die Cent
Click images to enlarge.

NGC recently received a fake 1972 Doubled Die Cent, which is not something that we see often. There are actually several varieties of doubled die obverse 1972 cents, but the most popular is FS-101 because of the extremely pronounced doubling on the date and mottos. Many collect this doubled die as part of the regular series, and as of 5/21/12 NGC has graded nearly 2,000 examples. According to the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#), even a low grade example sells for a few hundred dollars.



Counterfeit 1972 Doubled Die Cent
Click images to enlarge.

Those familiar with the 1972 Doubled Die will be able to identify this counterfeit with ease. Instead of the bold doubling seen on genuine examples, this piece has weakly defined legends that blend into the fields. The surfaces also have a pockmarked appearance with raised lumps, particularly around IN GOD WE TRUST and the N in ONE. Familiarity with the look of genuine specimens certainly helps, but the soft details and raised areas on this piece are telltale signs that it is a counterfeit.



Click images to enlarge.

Genuine coin images courtesy of Heritage Auctions.

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United States



USA Coin Album: The San Francisco Mint Coinage of 1923, Part One

Posted on 6/12/2012

Certain issues of United States coins seem to hold more appeal than similar coins of other dates and mints.

Among my favorite coins are the various pieces coined at the San Francisco Mint in 1923. This was a significant year for several reasons, including the low mintages and condition rarity of most denominations dated 1923-S. Collectors will find that locating high quality examples of these pieces, whether circulated or mint state, will make for a satisfying challenge.

In 1923 the nation was just beginning to recover from several years of economic slowdown that followed the bustling, inflation-ridden economy of the Great War.

The three United States Mints were at full scale production from 1916 through 1920, by which time it became evident that a redundancy of most coins had developed. In fact, there were so many coins in storage by the end of 1920 that this supply lasted through the middle of 1923 for most denominations.

San Francisco provided for the coinage needs of the western states and American territories, such as Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Its role in striking Philippine coins ended with the opening of the U. S. Mint at Manila in 1920, so this further eroded the demand for new coins from San Francisco.

1921 saw modest mintages of cents early in the year and a similarly small number of nickels coined in the waning months. Most of these appear to have remained idle until needed a year or two later. Half dollars were particularly well liked by



westerners, and their production in 1921, though relatively low, exceeded that of the other mints. No other denominations were struck at San Francisco in 1921, aside from silver dollars. Things grew even quieter in 1922, when just dollars and double eagles bore the date 1922-S.

These last two denominations were not circulating coins in the conventional sense, and their production did not reflect domestic demand for additional pieces. Silver dollars were coined in accordance with the Pittman Act of 1918, which mandated that the dollars melted under that legislation be replaced with new coins made from domestically-mined silver. The resulting coins saw very limited circulation, most of them remaining idle in vaults for decades. Double eagles, and indeed all gold coins, were no longer circulating after the war, and the ones made in 1922 were used solely to back paper gold certificates and in international transactions.

The arrival of 1923 initially suggested that it would be a repeat of the previous year, but then the economy picked up in the spring. The drawdown of idle coins in storage accelerated, and it soon became evident that additional pieces would be needed. The Mint Director's Report reveals that all 1923-S cents were produced during the final four months of that year, with a total mintage of 8,700,000 pieces. This figure is small only in comparison to the huge mintages of 1916-20, yet examples of this date are elusive in all but the lowest grades. Heavily worn pieces were widely hoarded by speculators from the 1940s into the early 1960s, but coins grading Extremely Fine and higher are scarce. This is due not so much to wear as to the poor striking quality evident in these coins as made. The dies appear to have been improperly hardened, eroding quickly in use. The result was many coins having the detail of Fine at best, even when newly minted.

Sharply struck, well detailed 1923-S cents are rarities in any grade. Though Mint State examples are not especially rare in overall numbers, they are seldom found with a pleasing appearance. The typical MS coin is toned brown, with perhaps a trace of mint red color within the protected areas. This coloration is usually brassy, and toning streaks from an improperly mixed alloy in the planchet are not uncommon. These streaks result in what has come to be known as "woodgrain" toning, and it is seen often on 'S' Mint cents dated 1908 through the mid-1920s. In another phenomenon common to copper or bronze coins, the most sharply struck pieces are typically toned to brown, while only the mushy cents from heavily worn dies are likely to retain a significant amount of mint red. The exact reason for this is unknown, but it certainly applies to 1923-S cents.

One of the odd features of United States coins is that their style of date numerals often is inconsistent from one year to the next. This was most evident in the

Lincoln cent, a coin which debuted in 1909 using a script-style date sculpted into the original obverse model by its creator, Victor David Brenner. Subsequent dates were applied by the Mint's own engravers, who cut them directly into each year's master die. The long-tailed 9s used for the 1909 cents dictated that all numerals 3, 5, 7 and 9 should likewise have long tails, yet this was routinely overlooked for most issues. A perfect example is the cent's date for 1923, as it retains the long, hanging tail for numeral 9, yet this is paired with a squat 3 having uniformly round loops that are entirely inappropriate.

Next month I'll continue my look at the San Francisco Mint coinage of 1923 with profiles of the 1923-S nickels, dimes and quarters.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association.

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NumisMedia Market Report: The Carson City Mint

Posted on 6/12/2012

One of the more fascinating areas of collecting in this current market is specific to the Carson City Mint. Within any denomination there are a very limited number of dates available, and further, the original mintages are typically very low.

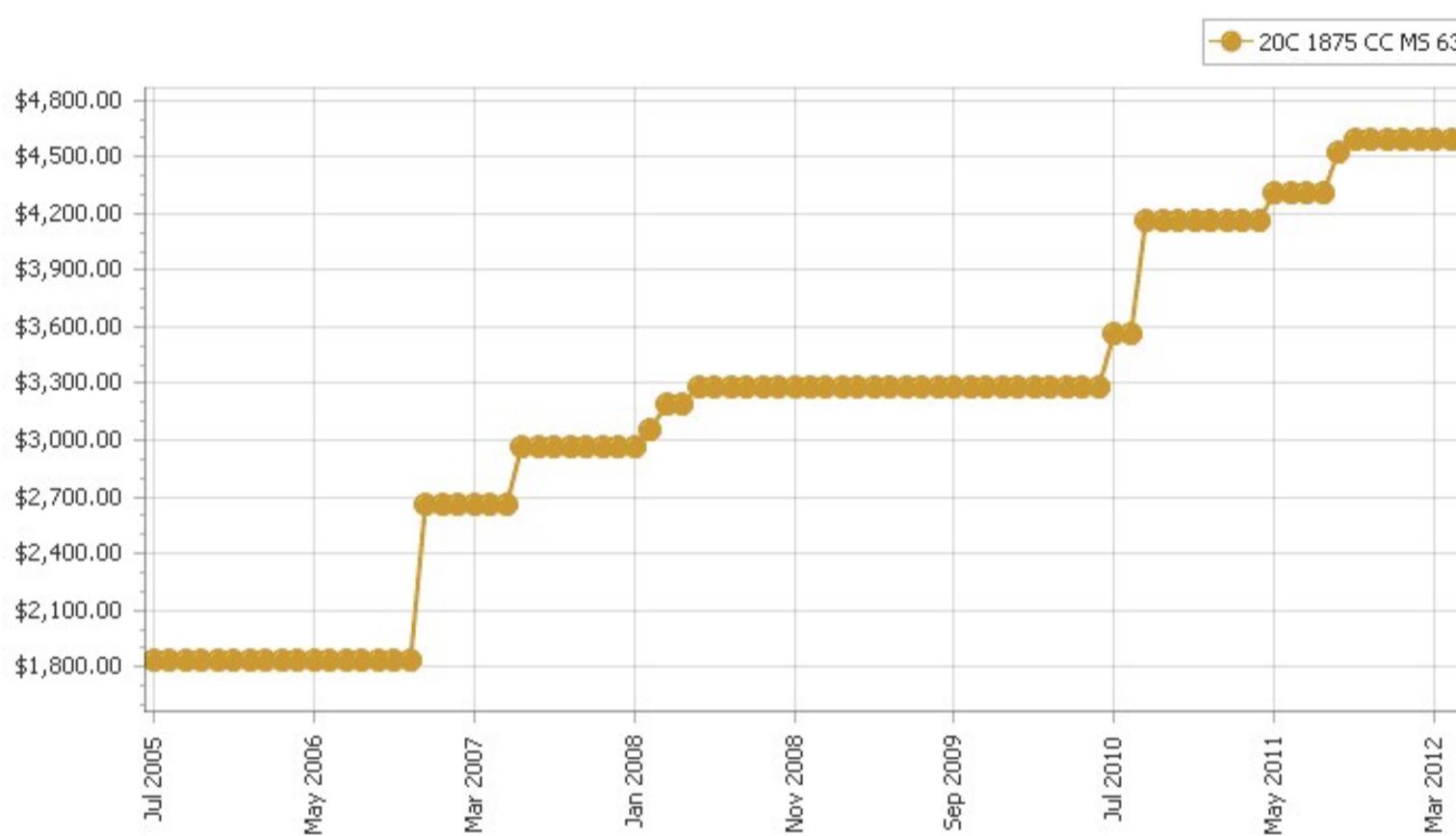
The history of the “Wild West” intrigues many a collector, wanting a piece of times gone by. While there are numerous ways to structure a collection of this nature, it usually begins with a particular series and then becomes more precise as the collector learns about the different mints and mintages of every date. Throw in the population reports and the true rarity of each coin becomes more obvious. Two of the more popular denominations are the Morgan Dollar and the Twenty Dollar Liberty.

There are 13 Carson City Morgan Dollars (many more if you add the varieties) and 19 different Twenties. The rarest Carson City Dollar is the 1889 with an FMV of \$362,500 in MS65. There are just six coins certified in MS65 with only two higher. Some collectors go to a further extreme and acquire only GSA Carson City Dollars certified by NGC. To our knowledge there is only one coin known in the GSA holder dated 1889 CC; this has been certified by NGC as an MS62 DPL. This tends to limit the potential for completing this set so most GSA collectors just ignore the 1889 CC. For that matter, the 1892 CC and 93 CC are just as rare in the GSA holder. The rarest Carson City in the Twenty Dollar series is the 1870 CC with an original mintage of just 3,789; the highest FMV we have recorded is for the AU55 with an FMV of \$572,000. While the 1891 CC has the next lowest mintage of 5,000 there are many Mint State coins grading as high as MS63. The FMV for the 1891 CC in MS63 is \$70,880.

Every denomination containing the Carson City Mint is a challenge to complete, especially as the grades improve. One of the most difficult series to complete is the Twenty Cents. There are only two coins in this series with the Carson City

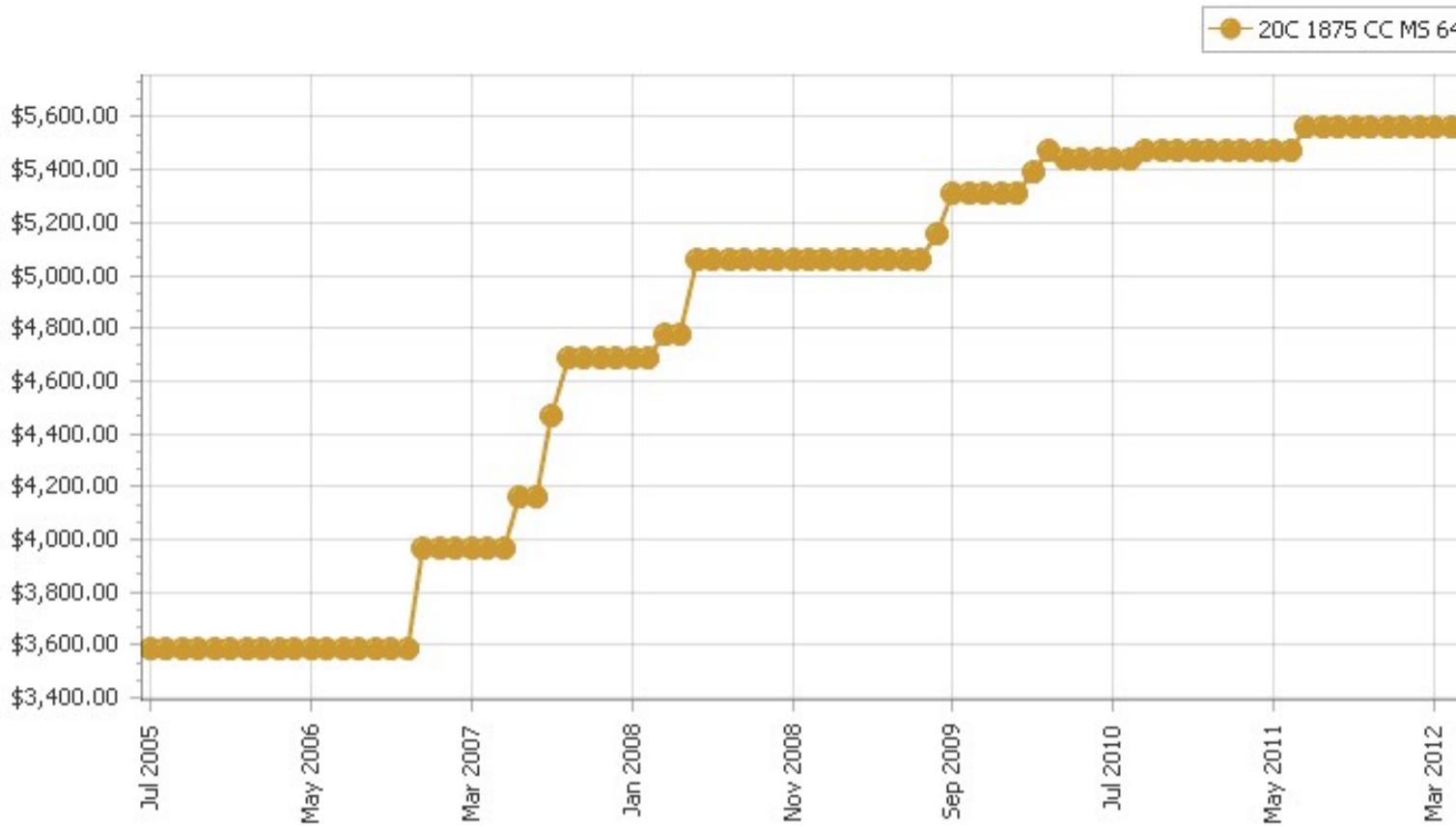
mint mark. The 1876 CC is virtually impossible to obtain because, although there were 10,000 minted, most of them were melted and never released. NGC and PCGS report only 21 coins total for all grades submitted for certification. There are only 8 coins certified in the MS65 and MS66 grades, some of which could be duplications having been resubmitted for a higher grade. This leaves only the 1875 CC as a viable acquisition for most collectors of the CC Mint in this series. The following graph shows the MS63 FMV for the last seven years.

1875 CC Twenty Cent MS63



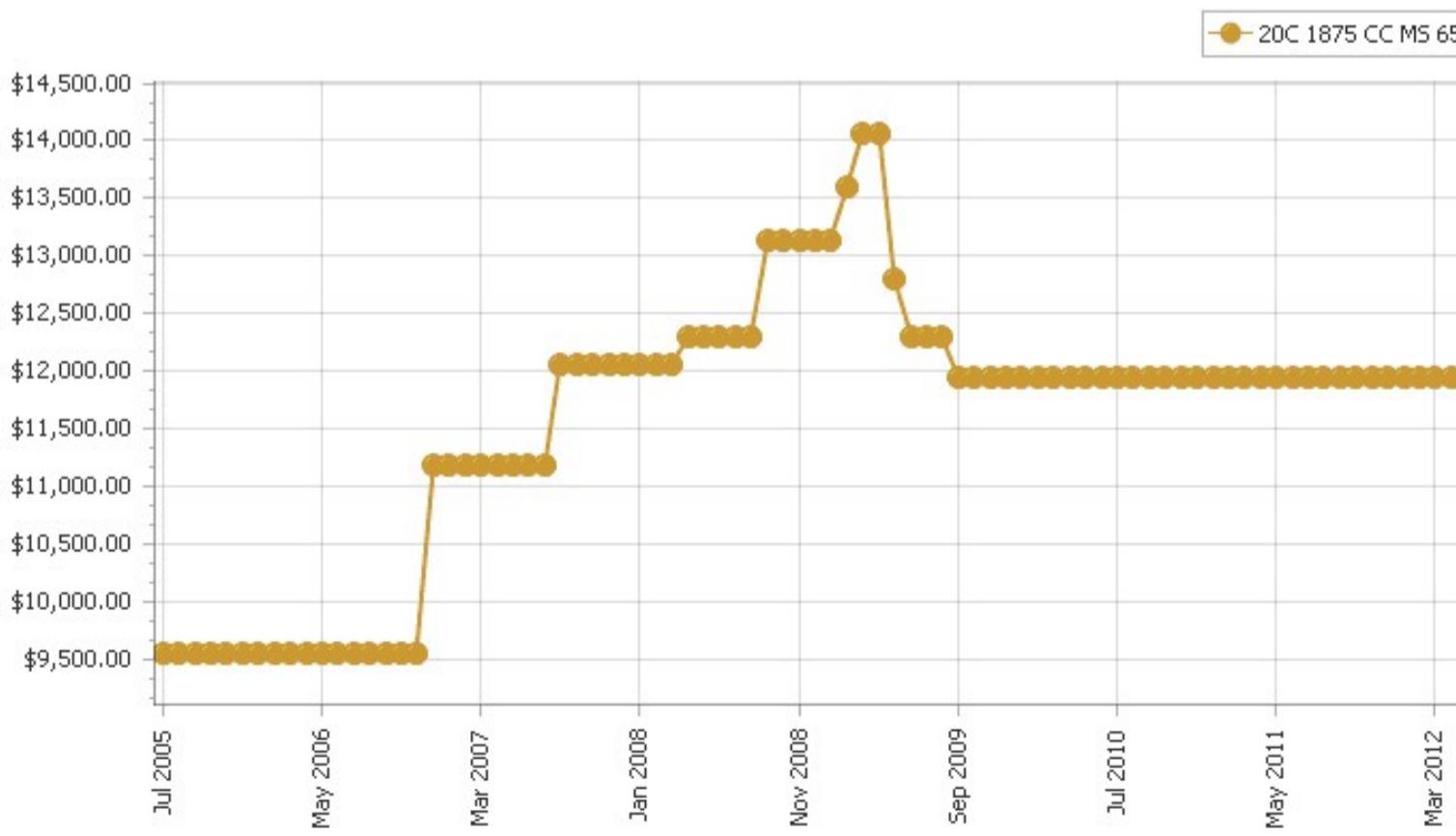
This timeline indicates the FMV was \$1,840 in July of 2005. It has increased nearly 150% since then to \$4,590 this month. This is a date that has only 118 coins certified in the MS63 grade combined at NGC and PCGS. The next graph shows results for the MS64. As you can see it had an FMV of \$3,590 in July 2005; it is currently at \$5,560, a gain of almost 55%. NGC and PCGS list a total of 204 coins in MS64. With nearly 100 coins more than the MS63 this could partially explain why the MS64 has not advanced as much as the MS 63.

1875 CC Twenty Cent MS64



The final graph shows the recent history of the MS65 1875 CC. The FMV was \$9,560 in July 2005 and ran as high as \$14,060 in April 2009 before falling back to the current FMV of \$11,940. This is still a gain of 25% since July 2005. The number of coins certified by NGC and PCGS is a combined 52 in MS65. There are only eight graded higher in MS66.

1875 CC Twenty Cent MS65



The current FMV for the 1876 CC in the three grades reported are MS63 -

\$187,500, MS64 - \$218,750, and MS65 - \$281,250. As we mentioned earlier, these coins are rarely offered in the marketplace. It takes some real convincing to get a collector to part with this particular date. The 1875 CC has been a very popular date for many years. Since 2005, nearly every grade from Very Good to MS63 has increased 100%. The demand has been quite strong and, from the looks of the collector market, the Carson City Mint will continue to attract additional new collectors.

This article is a guest article written by:



The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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From the NGC Archives: 1894 Coronet Quarter Eagle

Posted on 6/12/2012

Christian Gobrecht, who became the US Mint's chief engraver in 1840, created this coin that very same year.

When the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added to the larger gold coins in 1866, the quarter eagle proved too small to accommodate it, and this 1894 edition is therefore godless.



After 1879, when the last quarter eagles were minted at San Francisco, this denomination largely ceased to be a circulating coin. Its production was mostly limited to the demand for holiday gifts and jewelry items. The 1894 quarter eagles were coined in especially small numbers, just 4,000 pieces being minted of the non-proof edition. While most survivors are in mint state, gems such as this beauty are very scarce and desirable. This specimen is superbly struck and delightfully prooflike. Its surfaces are quite clean and entirely untoned.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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United States



Conservation Showcase: 1879-S S\$1

Posted on 6/12/2012

A recent example from the NCS conservation laboratory.

Knowing the history of a coin can often help the conservator more effectively conserve the piece. A coin that has been subjected to an extreme environmental condition such as a fire will require different techniques than a coin that has been stored in a PVC laden coin holder. Sometimes a submitter will reveal such details when sending a coin to NCS, while most of the time the storage history of a coin is a mystery.

This 1879-S Morgan Silver Dollar was submitted to remove the thick white deposits in spots on the obverse and most of the reverse. While we do not know for certain what storage conditions caused these deposits to form, from experience we can deduce that it was most likely liquid water perhaps from a flood. After careful and time consuming work, these deposits were safely removed from the surface of this Morgan Dollar revealing a brilliant white surface. This coin was able to grade numerically very well with NGC following the conservation.

BEFORE CONSERVATION



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AFTER CONSERVATION



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2012 Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Silver Dollar Set

Posted on 6/12/2012

The US Mint offers the 2012 Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Silver Dollar Set for sale starting June 1, 2012.

[WASHINGTON, DC] — This limited-edition product contains a proof Star-Spangled Banner Silver Dollar, a reproduction of one of Francis Scott Key's original manuscripts of his poem "The Star-Spangled Banner," the lyrics to the "Star-Spangled Banner," and information about our national anthem against colorful artwork depicting the battle between United States and British forces for Fort McHenry. Only 50,000 units will be sold.



On the morning of September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key saw a 42-foot by 30-foot American flag flying over Fort McHenry through clearing smoke caused by a 25-hour British bombardment of Fort McHenry. He was so inspired by the sight that he wrote a verse he called "The Defense of Fort McHenry." By 1916, these words, sung to the tune of the British melody "To Anacreon in Heaven," had become so widely popular that they were renamed "The Star-Spangled Banner," and President Woodrow Wilson ordered they be played at military and naval ceremonies. On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a resolution passed by Congress that officially designated "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem of the United States.

For additional information, visit the [US Mint](#).

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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United States



SS Gairsoppa and SS Mantola Silver Cargo Recovery Expedition Underway

Posted on 6/12/2012

Operations begin to recover the anticipated silver cargoes from the SS Gairsoppa and SS Mantola shipwrecks.

[TAMPA, FL] — Odyssey Marine Exploration (NasdaqCM: OMEX), pioneers in the field of deep-ocean exploration, today announced that the M/V Seabed Worker has departed port and is on its way to begin operations to recover the anticipated silver cargoes from the SS Gairsoppa and SS Mantola shipwrecks. Historical records indicate the Gairsoppa was carrying up to seven million ounces of silver and the Mantola was carrying approximately 600,000 ounces of silver when each sank. Odyssey discovered both shipwrecks in Q3 2011 and conducted a series of reconnaissance dives to both sites in March and April 2012.



Both the

Gairsoppa and Mantola projects are being conducted under contract with the UK Department for Transport. Under these contracts, which follow standard

commercial practices, Odyssey will retain 80% of the net salved value of the cargoes after recovery of expenses. Both merchant ships torpedoed by German submarines, the Gairsoppa during WWII and the Mantola during WWI. At that time, the UK government insured privately owned cargo under their War Risk Insurance program.

Odyssey has chartered Swire Seabed's 291-foot Seabed Worker for this recovery operation. The Seabed Worker is equipped with advanced deep-ocean capabilities, including the specialized tools necessary to salvage modern steel wrecks, such as redundant deep ROV systems and a 100-ton active heave compensated crane. Odyssey has also acquired advanced specialty tooling for the project that will provide exceptional flexibility in accessing the bullion.

"Modern steel wrecks such as Gairsoppa and Mantola require an advanced set of tools capable of surgically cutting through steel decks and removing bullion. After stringent review of available capabilities, we believe Seabed Worker is perfect for these projects. The ship has the ability to carry up to 300 tons of cargo below her decks. With the potential of over 240 tons of silver that may be brought up from both sites, we're confident that we've brought together the right team, the tools and transport features necessary to make this a secure and successful operation," said Mark Gordon, Odyssey COO & President. "We also expect to continue utilizing our own ship Odyssey Explorer for archaeological operations on HMS Victory in the English Channel."

About Swire Seabed

Swire Seabed AS represents experience and ultra modern equipment for deep waters in the subsea industry. The Company provides high quality services within Inspection, Maintenance & Repair, Construction Support and Subsea Decommissioning. In addition Seabed has expertise, experience and special equipment for deep sea wreck salvage. Seabed operates worldwide with the two vessels Seabed Worker and Seabed Prince.

Seabed Worker is an 88 m Multi Purpose Support Vessel. As a standard spread the vessel has accommodation for 66 people, Class 2 DP System, 650 m² deck area, Voith Schneider propulsion with active roll stabilization, active heave compensated 100 Te offshore crane, a Perry Slingsby 4000 m XLX ROV and a Schilling HD 5000m (moonpol) ROV. For the salvage operations in 2012 the Seabed Worker is also fitted with specialized equipment.

About Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc.

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. (Nasdaq:OMEX) is engaged in deep-ocean exploration using innovative methods and state-of-the-art technology. The Company is a world leader in shipwreck exploration, conducting extensive search and archaeological recovery operations on deep-ocean shipwrecks around the world. Odyssey also has a minority ownership stake in Neptune Minerals, a company focused on discovering and commercializing high-value mineral deposits from the ocean floor. Odyssey also provides contracting services, including proprietary deep-ocean expertise and equipment, to governments and companies around the world.

Odyssey offers various ways to share in the excitement of deep-ocean exploration by making shipwreck treasures and artifacts available to collectors, the general public and students through its webstore, exhibits, books, television, merchandise, educational programs and virtual museum located at www.odysseysvirtualmuseum.com.

Film crews from JWM Productions will be on board to capture Odyssey's 2012 marine operations. Odyssey has an agreement with JWM to produce at least three one hour television specials that are expected to air following the conclusion of seasonal operations.

For details on Odyssey's activities and its commitment to the preservation of maritime heritage please visit www.shipwreck.net.

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